

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Hansell, Hass, Olsen, Dingfelder
Nays: 0
Exc.: Bates
Prepared By: Beth Reiley, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes State Marine Board (Board) to make grants from funds received through federal Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. Authorizes Board to distribute directly to federal agencies amounts remaining in Boating Safety, Law Enforcement and Facility Account that are in excess of funds otherwise obligated.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarifies ambiguity in Board's authority to award grants of federal funds
- Burden on counties to administer grants for federal agency

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Marine Board was established in 1959 and serves as Oregon's recreational boating agency, dedicated to safety, education and access in an enhanced environment. Senate Bill 96 (1995) authorized the Board to make grants from funds received through the Clean Vessel Act, which was newly enacted by the US Congress. Subsequently, in 1998, Congress passed the Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act, which established a new Boating Infrastructure Grant Program which fell under the same umbrella law in the U.S. Code as the Clean Vessel Act. The Board's original interpretation of the statute was that the authority to make grants of funds received through the federal Clean Vessel Act extended to the Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act.

Senate Bill 26 specifically authorizes the Board to provide grants from funds received from the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. In addition, the Act allows federal agencies to apply directly to the Board for boating facility grants instead of having to apply through an Oregon county.